

The United States Ambassador's HIV/AIDS Small Grants Fund

SOLICITATION NOTICE

Background: The US Ambassador's HIV/AIDS Small Grants Fund (ASGF) is a program funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). PEPFAR is the US government's assistance program which is supporting the Malawi Government and the national response to combating HIV and AIDS. As part of this national response, the ASGF is seeking to support small, grassroots, community-run projects throughout Malawi.

In 2014, ASGF will fund projects that provide assistance to People with Disabilities (PWD's). The projects should (1) Guarantee disabled people's equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services; or (2) Increase disabled people's access to and control of strategic and protective health, social and economic assets which assist in preventing and mitigating the effect of HIV/AIDS.

Malawi has approximately 500,000 People with Disabilities. Malawi currently has policies and legal frameworks for promoting and upholding rights of the PWD's with its Constitution, Handicapped Persons' Act (1971), National Policy on the Equilisation of Persons with Disabilities (2006), National Special Needs Education Policy and Disability Bill (2012).

PWDs are as likely as their non-disabled peers to be sexually active, yet disability stereotyping, stigma, and inaccessibility of facilities and information can leave disabled people excluded from HIV and health services. Inaccessibility of HIV/AIDS related facilities and information, and lack of education can leave disabled people unaware of even basic HIV prevention or treatment information. Unemployment, lack of assistive devices and useful vocational skills, and dependency from their care givers leave PWDs in poverty and lack of resources to seek for HIV and health services. Commonly held, and incorrect, beliefs that disabled people are not sexually active may lead some health care providers to turn disabled people away even when they do seek testing, information or treatment. An additional risk is that ineffective and inaccessible communication methods, especially for blind, deaf, or intellectually disabled people, may leave disabled people without appropriate information regarding prevention or treatment, or even the ability to communicate with healthcare professionals and HIV/AIDS outreach workers.

Initial studies of disability and HIV/AIDS indicate that above mentioned and other risk factors leave disabled people at high risk of HIV infection, often at rates higher than those found in the wider population. At the same time, marginalization and stigma associated with disability and HIV can also discourage people from self-identifying and seeking for support.

Examples of types of projects that will be funded by ASGF:

- Building capacity of health workers/health care service providers with skills to understand and provide accessible services to the special needs of PWD's;
- Improving accessibility of health facilities;
- Development of HIV and health educational materials and information in accessible formats (e.g., braille, plain language, captioning of videos, use of sign language interpreters, etc);
- Production and distribution of assistive devices;
- HIV education among PWDs through targeted and accessible intervention and messages;
- Accessible HIV testing and counseling;
- Livelihood and economic empowerment programs appropriate to the needs of disabled people, including women and girls with disabilities, and parents and caregivers of children with disabilities;
- Community-based and structural interventions to eradicate the exploitation of disabled people, including disabled women and girls, by sex trafficking, rape, and sexual abuse;
- To support equal education for disabled people in mainstream school settings and ensure that school environments are safe and accessible to disabled students;
- Targeted and accessible interventions to empower disabled people, especially youth with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities, to have the knowledge and self-confidence to negotiate safer sex with sex partners;
- Studies on the specific needs, prevalence of HIV among PWD, and their access to health services.
- Integration or mainstreaming the needs of PWDs into existing PEPFAR and Ministry of Health programs.

Grant amount: Grants up to MWK 4,200,000 (~US \$10,000)

What the Money cannot be used for

- Staff salaries
- Purchase of vehicles or major equipment

Project Evaluation Criteria:

- The grant must be used to start or expand community-initiated projects that address needs of PWDs and HIV pandemic and should benefit the greatest number of people possible.
- Grants will be given for one year only. Projects must be completed within this one year period.
- The organization should be established, registered grassroots community-based organizations (CBOs) or NGO with a permanent address.
- Presence of a capable Malawian project manager who is a long-term resident in the community.
- The organization should have capacity to implement the project, deliver the intended results, report technical and financial progress of the project, and monitor and record the outcome indicators and proposed impact to the community.
- The organization should have proven experience and accomplishments in tackling needs of PWD's or HIV pandemic.
- The organizations committing their own resources in cash or in kind will be viewed more favorably.
- Pre-established long-term goals and a coherent plan to keep the project running in the future
- Coordination and communication amongst the grant-recipient group, local leaders, and local government representatives.

Required documents for application:

- Completed Grant Application Form
- A copy of registration certificate of the organization

Deadline: February 25, 2014. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

How to apply:

The Grant Application Form can be downloaded from U.S Embassy website at <http://lilongwe.usembassy.gov/>. Hard copies of the Application form can be collected at NICO house in Lilongwe City Center during working hours. Application forms are also available upon request to PEPFAR_Lilongwe@state.gov.

The completed Grant Application Form together with supporting materials should be sent to PEPFAR office via U.S. Embassy by standard mail or e-mail. Hand-delivered application should go to PEPFAR office at NICO house.

Mail: US Embassy, PEPFAR Office, PO Box 30455, Lilongwe 3.

Email: PEPFAR_Lilongwe@state.gov In Subject line insert: PEPFAR Small grants.

Hand-Delivery: PEPFAR office, NICO House, Lilongwe City Center

Due to large number of applications we receive, only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. Shortlisted applicants will be informed by March 17, 2014 and will be invited to submit a full proposal. Applicants who are not contacted by March 17, 2014, should consider their application unsuccessful.

GRANT APPLICATION FORM FOR AMBASSADOR'S SMALL GRANTS FUND FOR HIV/AIDS

All applicants who would like to be considered for funding, must submit applications no later than **February 25, 2014**.

Date submitted: _____

1. Name of Project _____

2. Name of Organization/Group _____

3. Address of Organization: (please provide exact physical location and P.O Box) _____

4. Type of the Organization/Group Informal group / CBO / Local NGO / NGO / INGO

5. Registration Verification:

Year in which your organization established _____ Date of NGO/CBO registration _____

Place of registration (e.g district or national) _____

(Please provide **a copy** of your organization's registration certificate)

6. Sponsoring Organization of Agency (if any) _____

7. Has your organization ever received **funding from the U.S. Government**? Yes / No _____
(If yes, please provide details)

8. Project Manager:

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ E-mail if available _____

9. Trustee (Chief from village or TA or Government staff who could provide reference about the organization)

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ E-mail if available _____

10. Experiences: Please provide brief description of your organization's experiences in working with PWDs and/or HIV.

12. Where the project will be implemented?

Village (s) _____

13. Who are the beneficiaries? _____

15. How much additional funding is needed? (Proposed grant amount) _____ MKW

16. What is the goal and brief description of your project? _____

Full name _____ **Signature** _____

Title _____ **Date** _____

